

 heating the support and the photosensitive coated layer by a second heating means provided at a downstream side of the first heating means so that hardening of the photosensitive coated layer is promoted; and
changing a condition of heating of the second heating means while the support is being conveyed.

 2. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 1, wherein the first heating means heats the photosensitive coated layer to 90°C or more.

3. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 1, wherein the first heating means dries the photosensitive coated layer such that a remaining amount of the organic solvent in the photosensitive coated layer is 5 wt% or less of the photosensitive coated layer.

 9. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 1, wherein the condition of heating by the second heating means is controlled in accordance with a type of the photosensitive coated layer formed on the support, such that a temperature of the photosensitive coated layer immediately after heating by the second heating means is a predetermined temperature which is set in accordance with the type of the photosensitive coated layer.

12. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate, the method comprising:

supplying a plurality of supports that have different dimensions, each of the supports being coated with a photosensitive coating solution containing an organic solvent such that a photosensitive coated layer is formed by the photosensitive coating solution;

drying the photosensitive coated layer by a first heating means to a dry-to-touch state;

heating the support and the photosensitive coated layer by a second heating means provided at a downstream side of the first heating means so that hardening of the photosensitive coated layer is promoted;

changing a condition of heating the supports and photosensitive coated layers by the second heating means in accordance with the thicknesses and the widths of the supports.

17. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 1, further comprising, at a down stream side of the cooling step, a step of forming an overcoat layer on the photosensitive coated layer.

Please add the following new claims:

18. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein the first heating means heats the photosensitive coated layer to 90°C or more.

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19. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein the first heating means dries the photosensitive coated layer such that a remaining amount of the organic solvent in the photosensitive coated layer is 5 wt% or less of the photosensitive coated layer.

20. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein a heating system of the second heating means is a heat radiation system.

21. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein a heating system of the second heating means is an induction heating system.

22. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein the condition of heating by the second heating means is controlled in accordance with a type of the photosensitive coated layer formed on the support, such that a temperature of the photosensitive coated layer immediately after heating by the second heating means is a predetermined temperature which is set in accordance with the type of the photosensitive coated layer.

23. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 1, wherein the second heating means is a plurality of drying devices which are disposed

along a conveying path of the support, and amounts of heat supplied by the plurality of heating devices are respectively controlled in accordance with changes in dimensions of the supports.

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24. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, wherein after hot air drying of the coated layer by the first heating means, the second heating means radiates mid-infrared radiation or far infrared radiation to the photosensitive coated layer and the support so as to heat the support and the photosensitive coated layer.

25. (New) A method for manufacturing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 12, further comprising, at a down stream side of the cooling step, a step of forming an overcoat layer on the photosensitive coated layer.
